



Scouting Around the World

SEPTEMBER 2019

National Capital Area Council International Committee

Committee Chairman: Jay Eidson
202-468-1029, ir.ncac.je@gmail.com

Staff Advisor: Don Durbin
301-214-9188 Don.Durbin@scouting.org

The International Committee meets the third Thursday, every other month at the Marriott Scout Service Center, 7:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

Upcoming meeting date: DINNER 19 SEP, 2019

Newsletter editor: John Scheirer, jScouter8@gmail.com

B-P Bits:



Be Prepared for 1920 . What do you see coming in 1920? Well, for one thing, there's the jamboree. What are you doing about that? Are you not going to exhibit a bit of handiwork of your own? The exhibition will show every kind of work that Scouts like to send in . provided of course, that it is well made. Is your troop going to give a show? Well, you mean to be in that, I suppose? It is probable that the King will open the Jamboree. King Scouts will, of course, form his Guard of Honor. If you are not yet a King Scout, now's the time to set to work and earn your crown so that you will be one of the Guard that day. If you do this it will be what I wish for you . A HAPPY NEW YEAR!+

Collectors' Corner: 2019 WJ Contingent Badges



Canada



Bolivia



Malaysia



Sweden



Thailand



Germany



Sri Lanka



Indonesia



Ecuador



HeForShe at the world Jamboree – Scouts Leading the Way

The UN Women HeForShe Initiative and the World Scout Movement have this week helped move the needle on gender equality at the 24th World Scout Jamboree in West Virginia, USA, with 40,000 youth from over 150 countries. This partnership is the result of World Scouting's commitment to the global solidarity movement HeForShe. Scouts also showed their commitment to gender equality by signing up to join the HeForShe movement for gender equality online. Scouts from around the world participated in gender Scout Talks+and engaged the HeForShe Action Kit for Scouts to explore the role that they can play in their societies to create a gender equal world.

Scouting in Brunei



Persekutuan Pengakap Negara Brunei Darussalam

The Persekutuan Pengakap Negara Brunei Darussalam was founded in 1933, and became a member of the WOSM in 1981. It began with 12 Scouts in 1933, in 1961 it had 322 Scouts, and by 2011 it rose to 2,086. In January 1933, Chegu Marsal bin Maun, a teacher, a Scout troop with 12 boys. Chegu Awang Zaidi bin Awang Taha, headmaster of the school, who was also the head of the Education Department became the Scoutmaster. The Brunei Scout Association was registered with The Boy Scout Association in London in 1939. It was then known as *Persatuan Tempatan Negeri Brunei*.

There were no English Medium schools in Brunei before 1940. So the boys who wished to study English were sent to the Government English School, in neighbouring Labuan. Most of these students joined the First Labuan Scout Troop of the school. The coronation of Sultan Ahmad Tajuddin took place on March 17, 1940. That was a great event in Brunei. The Menteri Besar Dato Hj. Ibrahim bin Mohd. Jaafar invited the First Labuan Scout Troop of the Government English School, to come and participate in the celebrations. So the Scouts with their Scoutmasters came to Brunei, joined the celebrations and lined up along Jalan Sultan during the procession. It was a memorable occasion and all the Scouts were presented with souvenirs. After completing their studies at Labuan, the Scouts returned to their homeland. Their effort made the Brunei Scout Association grow.

The Scout activities place emphasis on tolerance, respect for religious convictions and respect for others. The Scout Motto is *Selalu Bersedia, Be Prepared*. The highest rank is the *Pengakap Sultan*, Sultan Scout. The membership badge of the Persekutuan Pengakap Negara Brunei Darussalam incorporates the coat of arms of Brunei.

Boy Scouts Are Holding Together a War-Torn Country



IF YOU VENTURE outside Bangui, the capital of the Central African Republic, it's dangerous to travel alone. Journeying from village to village means navigating jungle or savanna without paved roads or reliable communication networks. CAR straddles one of the world's largest magnetic anomalies, so compasses often err. And conflict among more than a dozen armed religious groups has balkanized the country. Amid all of this, one unlikely institution has become crucial to the country's survival: the Boy Scouts.

Like scouts the world over, members wear trim shorts and multicolor neckerchiefs—but their youthful uniform belies a grander-than-average sociopolitical mission. When they aren't earning badges for cooking and woodworking, they're guiding ailing villagers to hospitals, or distributing mosquito nets and food at refugee camps. Last year, the boys investigated rumors of Ebola in a remote part of the country. The year before that, they helped negotiate the release of a Muslim community held hostage by armed groups. Since 2013, when rebels staged a coup and religious violence flared, CAR has been in a state of civil war. Today, the enfeebled government in Bangui relies on foreign aid agencies to hold the country together—and the agencies in turn rely on the country's 20,000 boy scouts, who surpass CAR's largest armed factions in both size and geographic reach. UNICEF, for example, deploys boys to public squares to perform plays about hand-washing, and sends them door-to-door to promote the polio vaccine. The peacekeeping role that scouts play in CAR is more fitting than it might at first seem. Founded in 1907 by the British army officer Robert Baden-Powell, the scouting movement combines military reconnaissance tactics with a pacifist philosophy—in his famous book *Scouting for Boys*, Baden-Powell urged readers to think of themselves as “peace scouts.” According to Elleke Boehmer, a professor at Oxford, scouting technique was also strongly influenced by Baden-Powell's observations during his extensive African travels. “The Ingonyama chorus—a central scouting chant—is a Zulu chant,” she told me. And the wooden beads on the uniform were inspired by “a Zulu necklace he once found during a raid.”

For many boys and young men in CAR, scouting offers community, and keeps them from grimmer alternatives, such as being enlisted by local militias or drug dealers. Rod Gallaut, a scout leader in Bangui, told me that scout training helps young men secure work, and that he encourages child soldiers to lay down their weapons and join his troop.

Unsurprisingly, given CAR's pervasive sectarianism, Catholic, Muslim, and evangelical scouts have long had separate troops. In the past few years, however, they've begun to team up—motivated in part by a desire to join scouting's official world body, which requires each member country to have a united national movement. In 2017, Gallaut, who is Christian, became friends with a Muslim scout leader when they traveled together to Cameroon for a scouting conference. “This experience has changed my conception of Muslims,” he said. Scouts of different denominations now attend camps where they bond over music and sports. And they recently began laying the bricks of an interfaith training center—and earning badges in peacebuilding.

Article by Kevin Volkl, *The Atlantic*, submitted by Reuben Brigety
